

events and assisting with regular police patrols, the auxiliary police also serve as a reserve force to assist the City of Taylor in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Additionally, the auxiliary has partnered with the city to further crime prevention initiatives, including Taylor on Watch, an education and outreach program that shares best practices for neighborhood and community safety. These initiatives and the service of officers, including 2017 award recipient Commander Jeff Witmer, have helped to make Taylor a safe city to live and work.

Commander Jeff Witmer has served the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department in various capacities for the past 14 years, including range instructor, Platoon Lieutenant, and the department's Operations Commander. As Operations Commander, Mr. Witmer is entrusted with the command of department operations making sure platoons run smoothly, and that all patrol rides go out on schedule. He is a well-respected member of both the department and the City of Taylor for his positivity, dedication, and community-oriented leadership. Due to his years of service and the trust placed in him, Commander Witmer oversees the training department for new recruits and serves as a mentor for junior department members. Our city is better because of Commander Witmer's leadership, and he is truly deserving of being named the 2017 Taylor Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year. We are grateful for Commander Witmer's service and look forward to his continued contributions to protecting our city and growing the auxiliary department in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Jeff Witmer for his years of service to our local community. He has impacted countless lives through his work with Taylor's Auxiliary Police Department.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH COUNTRY PUBLIC RADIO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize North Country Public Radio on its 50th anniversary.

North Country Public Radio (NCPR) is a public radio network with a mission to inform, enrich, and connect the community. Based out of Canton, New York, the network is the NPR affiliate for the North Country, providing NPR programming as well as music and award-winning regional news coverage. In addition, NCPR serves as the emergency broadcast system for many communities within the North Country. After starting with a single transmitter covering St. Lawrence County, NCPR debuted on the air in 1968 and has since expanded to operate 34 transmitters today, serving not only the entire Adirondack North Country region, but also western Vermont and southeastern Ontario.

NCPR provides a particularly important service to my district, delivering invaluable content to the people of the North Country. The hard work of NCPR employees has greatly expanded the options available to North Country residents, whether they are looking

for entertainment programming or for news and information.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I would like to thank NCPR for prioritizing the enrichment of our community during its 50 years of broadcasting.

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, CHRISTI ROBERTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, special Olympian and native of Houston, Christi Roberts, knows a thing or two about competition. In her own words she says, "Don't mess with me, because I'm bringing the Texas heat." And Texas heat is what she brings.

Christi was born with a rare heart condition that required surgery when she was just two years old. She had to get her index fingers corrected and constantly has to check her blood pressure. None of that brought Christi down, but only pushed her to become a better athlete and pursue her passions in life.

Christi loves to run. As a Special Olympics athlete, she has competed in multiple events, but track is by far her favorite. And who would doubt it? Christi smokes the competition. During races she surprised all of her coaches, teammates and onlookers as she blazed down the track at lightning speed. Christi is not to be messed with, because she has one goal: winning. Her motto is, "I win, but I don't like losing."

When you can't find her beating the competition on the track, you can find her at the Houston Police Barn, sponsoring a horse by the name of Smash. She spends her extra time feeding, brushing and loving on her horse. Spending time with Smash is one of her favorite past times, and the Houston Police Barn is grateful for her time and dedication to sponsoring one of their beloved horses.

Christi's positive attitude and passion for life is infectious and she radiates happiness every single day. Her dedication to competing in the Special Olympics and continuing to crush the competition is one to be admired.

Christi is the definition of what it means to be a Special Olympian and Houstonian, and I'm proud to honor her and spread her inspirational story.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on March 13, 2018 due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 102 and Yea on Roll Call No. 103.

RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP COBB CLASS OF 2018

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding leaders and members of the Leadership Cobb Class of 2018.

Leadership Cobb was founded in 1983 by a nucleus of leaders, including Harris Hines, Johnny Isakson, Phil Sanders and Jay Whorton, in order to train a new group of leaders to guide Cobb County's future.

From hundreds of qualified applicants, Leadership Cobb selected 50 exceptionally qualified individuals for the Class of 2018, to provide a learning environment that enhances personal and professional growth to benefit the individual, his or her local community, and the entire Atlanta region.

The Leadership Cobb Class of 2018 is led by Leadership Cobb alumni Lee Freeman-Smith, Brett McClung, Chris Martin, Tripp Boyer, and Michelle Howard from the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce, and dozens of alumni who volunteer for committees to plan each program day, including class members Wendy Alpine, Elaine Armster, Lisa Ashby, Neera Bahl, Dale Bercher, Alyssa Blanchard, Obie Brannon, Little Brown, Jarrette Burckhalter, Amy Carrier, Karen Cates, Cedric Clark, Christi Cronin, Lisa Cupid, Frank Durrance, Jesse Evans, Britt Fleck, Jason Gaines, Derek Goshay, Tyler Gwynn, Bonnie Harris, Stacy Haubenschild, Bob Heuel, David Hoeller, Erick Hofstetter, Peter Hortman, Schuyler Hoynes, David Jones, Derek Krebs, Kelly Luscre, Tim Matthews, Anthony Mullins, Nicole Nurse, Jonathan Page, Amber Patterson, Serena Ploessl, Ron Price, Esther Prieto, Valerie Prince, Matt Reid, Christina Saliba, Jessi Samford, Kelvin Scott, Amanda Seals, Jason Shepherd, Thomas Sherrer, Jr., Angie Smith, Trey Spivey, Meaghan Timko, and Erin Zwigart.

On behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I commend Leadership Cobb and the members of the Leadership Cobb Class of 2018 for their dedication to community service and their commitment to improving opportunities for local citizens.

RECOGNIZING MARCY KAPTUR AS LONGEST SERVING WOMAN IN CONGRESS

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as people across America celebrate Women's History Month and honor our nation's many sheroes, I rise today to recognize a modern-day shero, my colleague, fellow Ohioan, and good friend Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR.

This Sunday, March 18, 2018, Congresswoman KAPTUR will become the longest-serving woman in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving incredibly for 35 years, 2 months, 15 days and counting.

I have had the privilege of knowing MARCY for more than two decades, as well as the honor of serving in the House alongside her for the last six years, and I cannot think of a more determined, driven, and dedicated public servant than she.

Throughout her entire decades-long service to the people of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, Congresswoman KAPTUR has been a steadfast champion for our great automotive and manufacturing industries, the American worker and their families, and the brave men and women in the Armed Forces. In addition, she has been a tireless advocate for the middle class, and in ensuring that everyone has a fair shake to succeed and realize the American Dream.

Of course, I would be remiss to also not mention her unyielding commitment to our nation's veterans—highlighted by her tireless work and driving force to establish the National World War II Memorial.

Yes, Congresswoman KAPTUR has left an indelible mark on Ohio and this nation, and I join all those in Congress and across the country in saluting her on this momentous and most historic accomplishment.

Congratulations, MARCY.

SALUTING REPRESENTATIVE MARCY KAPTUR

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Representative MARCY KAPTUR as she becomes the longest-serving woman in the history of the United States House of Representatives.

For more than 35 years, Representative KAPTUR has served the people of Toledo and northern Ohio with passion and tenacity. Ms. KAPTUR has been a tireless advocate for energy independence, strong international engagement, robust national defense, workers' rights, and America's veterans.

There is no greater physical symbol of Representative KAPTUR's leadership than the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Ms. KAPTUR shepherded legislation creating the memorial through Congress and then worked vigorously to appropriate the funds needed to complete it.

It has been my privilege to serve with MARCY on the Appropriations Committee, where she is Ranking Member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee and sits with me on both the Defense and Interior-Environment Subcommittees.

On every issue we consider, Representative KAPTUR is a thoughtful voice who consistently prioritizes the needs and interests of her constituents. Her support for our Great Lakes has been invaluable to me as we work to sustain important restoration efforts in the area.

Mr. Speaker, the entire House is lucky to have such a distinguished colleague as Ms. KAPTUR. As we celebrate this historic milestone, I salute Representative MARCY KAPTUR on her service.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND SERVICE OF OFFICER GREGGORY JONATHAN CASILLAS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, on Friday March 9th, the brave men and women of the Pomona Police Department responded to a short pursuit that resulted in a 15-hour long standoff in my hometown. Among those brave first responders was Officer Gregory Jonathan Casillas.

It is with more than a heavy heart that I stand here on the House floor to say that during that altercation, Officer Casillas was killed in the line of duty. I can't say much about the motives of the individual who committed this abhorrent crime, nor do I want to.

What I do want to do is focus on Officer Casillas and the incredible contributions he made to leave Pomona safer than it was before.

He made the ultimate sacrifice doing what he loved, and he will be missed dearly. He is survived not only by his parents, brothers, wife, five-month old and four-year old sons, but also by every single law enforcement officer of the Pomona Police Department and every member of our community.

Casillas knew his calling early on: to one day become a Pomona Police Officer. In March of 2015, he set out on this pursuit and joined the Pomona PD as a records specialist. Casillas would go on to work his way up through the department, prudently learning every detail at every step. On November 2015, he became a jailer before eventually becoming a Pomona police recruit, putting him one step closer to attending the police academy.

Officer Casillas intentionally took on these varying roles within the department because he was eager to learn and wanted to become the best version of himself to prepare him for the role of officer.

Colleagues recall Casillas diligently studying officer reports so he could learn how to write them—he was known for always carrying flashcards of penal codes and books to prepare for the police officer exam.

He was honest, dedicated, and determined. He never lost hope nor sight of his dreams.

And last September, that relentless determination led him to graduate from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Academy Class No. 207. He accomplished his goal of becoming a Pomona Police Officer.

Officer Casillas was in the final stages of finishing his field training, which would have allowed him to ride on his own without a training officer—a self-imposed final hurdle for achieving his ultimate goal of riding solo.

But in my opinion, he achieved his goal nearly four years ago when he decided to join the Pomona Police Department. It takes a special kind of unyielding dedication for someone to be willing to put their lives at risk every single day that they put on a uniform.

Casillas was this type of individual.

Officer Casillas accomplished his goal long ago and surpassed it.

The hundreds of people that gathered for multiple vigils in his memory is evidence.

The young generation of police recruits that he has inspired by leading by example is proof.

He selflessly left his family at home to protect our community. His memory and spirit will live on, and we are eternally grateful for his sacrifice. May he rest in peace.

SWIMMING PRO AND SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, MEG NORMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every individual finds their refuge and sanctuary in different places. Meg Norman finds hers in the swimming pool. Rightfully so, as Meg is a fierce swimming competitor and an even fiercer lover of life.

At the age of two, Meg appeared on the autism spectrum. Her mom, Joan, said being doted on by her older siblings helped boost her confidence. And boost her confidence it did. Meg has no hesitation jumping into a pool to compete in races. Her competitors don't even stand a chance when she pushes off that pool wall. Her recipe for success? Practicing hard, having a lot of fun and always smiling. Meg is determined to succeed every time she jumps into the pool and that's aided by focusing on winning and keeping a positive attitude.

Meg is a competitor in the Special Olympics and as you can imagine, has been very successful. The Special Olympics has given her an outlet to compete in a sport she loves and she has thrived during every moment. Meg's competitive spirit has driven her motivation to succeed and also helped her to win several titles and medals throughout her life.

When you can't find Meg at the pool swimming laps, you can find her working in the Special Olympics office. At the office, she devotes her time to helping staff with various projects, which comes as a huge help.

Meg's "can-do" attitude and joyful spirit is one to be admired. Her success in and out of the pool can be attributed to hard work and her own sense of determination. Nothing can get Meg down. That is why the pool is her sanctuary.

I am honored to say Meg is a Special Olympian from Houston, Texas. As Texans and Houstonians, we pride ourselves in our hard work and determination to do something great with our lives. Meg has certainly lived up to both of those qualities, and I'm proud to be able to spread her story today. Just keep swimming, Meg.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 13, I was absent for recorded votes No. 102 and No. 103. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call No. 102 I would have voted NO; and on Roll Call No. 103 I would have voted YES.